

Remarks

The Office Action mailed May 31, 2005 has been carefully considered. As such, Claims 1-50 remain in the case with none of the claims being allowed.

Applicant has amended the specification to fix minor errors in the text. Applicant has also amended the drawings to correctly number the parts. No material changes have been made.

The Examiner rejected Claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,759,594 to Kleboe et al. Additionally, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10, 12, 20, 21, 27-35, 37, and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,811,018 to Cotter et al. in view of Kleboe et al.

As the Examiner is aware, it is the burden of the Examiner to establish a prima facie case of obviousness when rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 (In re Reuter, 651 F. 2d. 751, 210 U.S.P.Q. 249 (CCPA 1981)). In this case, The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

Cotter et al. teaches the use of motorized rollers, which are not part of the present invention. Additionally, Cotter et al. is not cantilevered, as taught in the present invention. Cotter et al. has an angled discharge conveyor section 214 that is attached to a first sidewall 216 and a second sidewall 218. Neither sidewall is moveable so as to make the angled conveyor selectively cantilevered as in the present invention.

Kleboe et al. teaches a machine that permits the substitution of a new cable for a damaged cable without the necessity of completely dismantling the machine. The substitution is achieved by merely removing the sheave or take up roller 72, over which the new cable is to be trained, from its journal bearings in U-shaped member 62. (Col. 3, lines 18-25) Contrarily, in the present invention, the belts are easily changed because one of the vertical support walls is a support arm that is selectively moveable such that the belt deck becomes cantilevered when the support arm is moved to a horizontal position.

As such, even if one skilled in the art combined Cotter et al. with Kleboe et al. a cantilevered conveying belt like that of the present invention would not be formed since neither Cotter et al. or Kleboe et al. teaches a cantilevered conveyor belt system.

The Applicant submits that by this amendment he has placed the case in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains unresolved, Applicant's attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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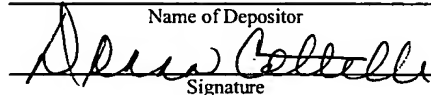
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